

# 2021 National Judge



## Colleen Stockford

Business Owner and  
Full-time Gardener

Sussex, NB

Colleen Stockford is from Sussex New Brunswick where she has been an enthusiastic member of the Communities in Bloom team for over ten years. She has also been an avid home gardener for over 20 years, during which she taught herself the basics of landscaping and horticulture. Colleen's gardening interests are vast, from community vegetable gardens and town beautification projects to her own personal garden and greenhouse, she puts her heart and soul into every vegetable, shrub and flower. And she is always looking for new ways to learn more and improve the beautiful green spaces around her.

When she's not up to her elbows in dirt, Colleen is a wife, a proud mother of two grown children, and a Gigi to her first grandchild who is the biggest light in her life. When her children were younger and living at home she made sure gardening became a family affair, often enlisting their help and teaching them the importance of nature and taking care of it. She can't wait to do the same with her granddaughter. Colleen is also a business owner along with her husband. They both enjoy working together and love that they can be connected to the community through their business. From being involved with the Down Town Business Association to being a former secretary of the ATV Club, Colleen thrives off being involved in the community.

Through her personal experience, Colleen has learned that gardening can have a powerful impact on those willing to get in touch with their green thumbs. With this in mind she wholeheartedly took on the challenge of educating at risk youth about gardening by getting them to help with a town beautification project where they revamped the garden surrounding a town monument.

Colleen is an experienced traveller whose education spans from a travel and tourism degree, to real-estate and even a course in interior decorating. Her experience and education has given her a keen eye for aesthetics which has proven to be an asset for her personal garden and for her CiB team. She has immersed herself in the colourful and uplifting world of gardening, where she has become self-taught expert. For Colleen gardening is not just a hobby, it's a way of life.

Colleen has been a proud judge for CiB and has hosted the annual symposium on two separate occasions. She is looking forward to hosting it virtually this year to help bring people together through their love of gardening, green spaces and the environment during a time where social distancing has made getting out in nature and connecting with people so important.